UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council requests Secretary-General to use all resources available to restore status of safe area of Srebrenica; demands Bosnian Serb forces withdraw from area immediately.

* Dutch peace-keepers shelter 30,000 refugees fleeing Bosnian Serb advance in Srebrenica safe haven; 12 more peace-keepers taken by Serb forces.

* Secretary-General condemns Bosnian Serb attack on Srebrenica; says situation will be worse if UNPROFOR withdraws from former Yugoslavia.

* Secretary-General stops in Cairo, en route to African capitals including Entebbe, Kigali, Luanda and Bujumbura.

* General Assembly and Security Council elect Rosalind Higgins of United Kingdom as first woman judge to International Court of Justice.

* General Assembly extends mandate of MICIVIH until 7 February 1996; partial results of first round of Haitian elections released.

The Security Council today, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, requested the Secretary-General to use all resources available to him to restore the status of the safe area of Srebrenica as defined by the 18 April 1993 Agreement for the demilitarization of Srebrenica. The Council demanded that the Bosnian Serbs withdraw from the safe haven immediately and that they immediately and unconditionally release unharmed all detained United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel.

In unanimously adopting resolution 1004 (1995), the Council expressed grave concern at the plight of civilians in Srebrenica, and also demanded that the parties fully respect the status of the city as a safe area. The Council also

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expressed serious concern at the serious situation confronting UNPROFOR personnel and the many displaced persons within the safe area at Potocari, and demanded that all parties allow unimpeded access for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international humanitarian agencies to Srebrenica in order to alleviate the plight of civilians.

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Bosnian Serb forces have over-run the United Nations base at the village of Potocari, north of Srebrenica, a United Nations spokesman said today. Potocari was crammed with more than 30,000 refugees who have fled from the Serbian advance on the enclave of Srebrenica. Another 8,000 people were fleeing from small villages and towns in the north. Much of the enclave, including Srebrenica town, was taken by Serb forces yesterday, despite NATO air action which destroyed two of their tanks. The Serb forces had been at the Dutch compound at Potocari, searching for possible Bosnian Government soldiers in the area.

Dutch peace-keepers had not retreated from their base and were providing as much support as possible to refugees, the spokesman continued. Food, water and medical care were urgently needed. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was negotiating with the parties on how to handle the huge number of refugees. About 40 Bosnian Serb trucks, carrying Srebrenica refugees, have left Potocari for Bosnian Government controlled areas where international agencies would assist them. A second convoy carrying some 1,500 refugees was being prepared for departure.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb attacks on peace-keepers were continuing, the spokesman said. Last night, two United Nations observation posts north-east of Srebrenica were over-run and twelve Dutch soldiers captured, bringing to 42 the total number of peace-keepers held by Bosnian Serbs. The captive peace-keepers were allowed to keep their side-arms and were not under any threat. The enclave of Zepa had been shelled and there had been Bosnian Serb troop movements in the area. Some 22 artillery rounds had also been fired against Gorazde.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the Bosnian Serb offensive against the safe area of Srebrenica. Speaking to reporters before leaving Athens today, the Secretary-General said the United Nations was seeking the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb forces. The main problem was the plight of thousands of refugees and he was in contact with the UNHCR to try and negotiate their relocation.

The Secretary-General said if the United Nations withdrew from the former

Yugoslavia the situation there would be much worse. He had been resisting pressure for 12 months for an UNPROFOR withdrawal and he would do whatever was needed to maintain the Force's presence. The Security Council had asked him to continue his efforts to try and find a solution to the problem. Despite recent aggression, for the time being, the only way to find a permanent solution was to negotiate. The United Nations would continue to negotiate regarding the problem of the refugees and also to find a solution to the problem.

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The Secretary-General concluded his official visit to Greece today, leaving Athens on a trip which will take him to several African capitals including Entebbe, Kigali, Luanda and Bujumbura, a United Nations spokesman said. On his way to Cairo, he stopped in Borg El Arab, where he met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. They discussed developments in the former Yugoslavia, the volatile situation in Burundi, UN efforts in Rwanda and the question of refugee camps in Zaire.

The Secretary-General and President Mubarak also discussed the peace process in Angola, as the Secretary-General's visit to the region, and the situation in the Middle East. They also discussed the UN co-ordinating role in Gaza and the situation in Iraq and Libya. The Secretary-General then left for Cairo, Egypt, where he met with Egyptian Prime Minister, Atef Sidky.

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The Security Council and the General Assembly voted concurrently today to elect Judge Rosalind Higgins of the United Kingdom to the International Court of Justice, the first woman to sit on the Court. Judge Higgins was elected unanimously in the first round of secret balloting in the Council. Her term of office will expire on 5 February 2000.

Elections to the Court require an absolute majority in both the Council and the Assembly. In the Assembly, which voted independently, Ms. Higgins obtained 155 votes in the first ballot. Judge Higgins will fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Judge Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings.

Ms. Higgins, a professor of international law at the University of London, is Chairman of the Public International Law Advisory Board of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. She is also a member of the Committee on Human Rights. Prior to that position, she was professor of International Law at the University of Kent.

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Acting without a vote, the General Assembly today extended the mandate of the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) until 7 February 1996. The Mission's task is to verify full observance by Haiti of human rights and fundamental freedoms and make recommendations to further the establishment of a climate of freedom and tolerance to help strengthen democracy.

Meanwhile, partial results of Haiti's first round of elections held on 25 June have been released, according to a United Nations spokesman. The results cover seven of the nine provinces. In the Chamber of Deputies, candidates of President Bertrand Aristide's movement, Lavalas, won 16 out of 83 seats and Lavalas candidates won four of the 18 seats in the Senate. The election results for the other two provinces will be announced shortly.

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